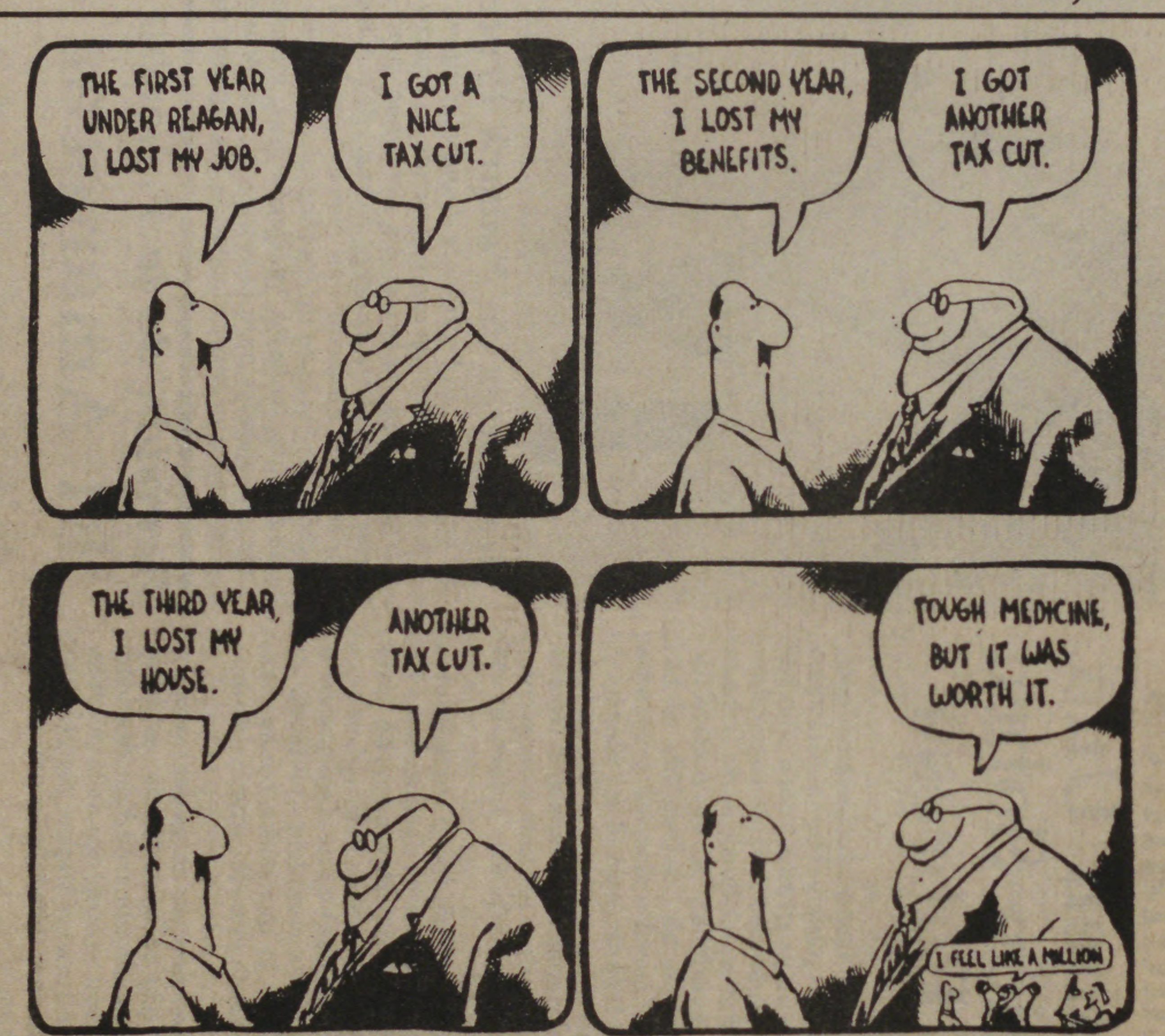
FREE GRATIS

TRI-LINGUAL

IRONBOUND VOICES

Vol. 6 No. 7 December, 1983



Dioxin - A Cover Up Not A Clean Up

"The dioxin problem hasn't been solved. None of the government agencies care about us," said June Kruszewski. "They're not protecting our health and safety. Instead, they protect the profits of the chemical companies."

During the last few weeks, a number of facts about the dioxin contamination have emerged:

- The clean up has failed.
- The dioxin is spread over a much larger area than the government first admitted.
- The dioxin contaminated dirt that was swept up will stay in Ironbound.
- The few health tests done on workers in nearby plants were never completed.

A lawsuit filed by the **Ironbound Health Rights Advisory Commission** against the DEP in August finally forced the DEP to give Ironbound residents copies of some of the test results. Researchers for the **Ironbound Advisory Commission** analyzed the data and concluded that the clean up done by the government had been a failure. At a press conference held Nov. 3, the **Ironbound Advisory Commission** pointed out 2 possible reasons:

1. The crew doing the job had not cleaned up the dioxin to begin with or
2. The area became **re-contaminated** by dioxin from the area being transported back onto the streets.

According to the Commission, out of 19 parts of the "clean up" area, 17 parts were ***still*** contaminated with dioxin after the "clean up". (Only 15 had been contaminated before the "clean up".) "Maybe they just don't know what they're doing or maybe the whole 'clean up' operation was just a public relations gimmick," said Bob Cartwright.

The **Ironbound Health Rights Advisory Commission** also found out that **everywhere** the government tested, they found dioxin. So far, this includes the area from Chapel to Blanchard St. and from Lister Ave. to Ferry St. Parts of the area are highly contaminated. Other areas have a lower level of contamination.



On Nov. 3, the Ironbound Health Rights Advisory Commission held a press conference about the dioxin "cover up". The speakers were (from left to right) Bob Cartwright, Councilman Henry Martinez, Freeholder Angelo Cifelli, Arnold Cohen, Mary Ann Vuocolo, and June Kruszewski.

Dioxin Dirt

The dirt contaminated with dioxin was swept up from a few streets and stored in a lot on Raymond Blvd. for 3 months. Then, SCA got a $175,000 contract to get rid of the dirt. The company said it would bury the dioxin in Lewistown, New York. Residents of that area have had continuing bad experience with SCA's handling of toxic wastes. Violations have been found at SCA's site in Lewistown for the last 5 years. Neighborhood residents there have had problems with severe air pollution causing health problems. People there organized **Operation Clean** to fight SCA. "We don't want to make problems worse for the people in New York.," said Arnold Cohen. "The government is just looking for another scapegoat to blame for their inaction."

The drums full of dioxin contaminated dirt are now being stored at the former Diamond Alkali plant on Lister Ave.

Health Tests???

Last June, when the dioxin discovery was announced, Ironbound residents demanded complete health tests for anyone who may have been exposed to the dioxin. The government refused. Instead, they agreed to do a few health tests for workers at SCA and Marisol. The government recently admitted that they **never even did** the laboratory tests that they said they would do. The government said they couldn't find labs to do the tests because it was a "special" test. The truth is that it is a common lab test that usually takes between 2 to 5 days - not 5 months. The workers had been told that they would get test results within a month.

The DEP is writing press releases telling what a great job they are doing on the clean up of dioxin here in Ironbound, but the facts show that it is a "cover up" not a real clean up.

Tenants Win Big Victory!

On October 19, the ***Coalition To Save Rent Control*** won a big victory when the City Council voted unanimously **against** changes to the rent control law which would have caused big rent increases. The proposed changes would have meant rents would rise an average of $200 for each apartment (in addition to the automatic 6% increase).

The ***Coalition To Save Rent Control*** is planning a victory celebration on **November 29** from 5 to 7 PM at the office of the Newark Coalition For Neighborhoods, 38 and 1/2 Walnut St., Newark.

"It is a big victory for tenants," said Frank Hutchins from the Newark Tenants Organization. "Tenants have been paying higher and higher rents every year. When fuel costs go up, tenants pay the increase. When taxes go up, tenants pay for that. We can't afford to pay higher rents. We have to draw the line somewhere. We told the City Council that the majority of the City's residents are tenants. We told them we'd be watching them to see how they voted - and then **we'd** know how to vote! Obviously, they listened to us."

Bob Cartwright from the ***Coalition To Save Rent Control*** pointed out in the first vote the City Council took about the proposed changes, only Councilman Tucker voted with the tenants. All the rest of the Councilpersons voted in favor of the changes which would benefit the landlords. "By getting organized we succeeded in turning this vote around," Mr. Cartwright said.

The anti-tenant changes were written by a Committee of the Chamber of Commerce consisting of big landlords and businessmen and the Newark Rent Control Board. Tenants were not involved. Ever since the changes were written last spring, the ***Coalition To Save Rent Control*** has fought against them. The ***Coalition*** has also proposed changes that would protect tenants better. Some of these changes are:

- Lowering the automatic increase from 6% to 3.5%. Other towns have a lower yearly increase than Newark.
- If taxes decrease, tenants are entitled to a rebate.
- Fines or other penalties for landlords who do not register with the Rent Control Board.
- Fuel costs are dropping, so eliminate the fuel pass through charge that tenants have to pay.

"We won this fight because people got active and made their voices heard," said Nancy Zak of the ***Coalition To Save Rent Control***. "We were invited to speak at meetings all over the City. We asked people to call or write their Councilpersons and they did. People came out to meetings at City Hall - day and night. Councilmembers got letters from people in every ward on this issue. It made them think twice about how to vote. That's what happens when people work together - ***success!***"

Last year, the ***Coalition To Save Rent Control*** stopped a proposal for **vacancy decontrol** in Newark. This proposal would have meant that landlords could charge new tenants rents as high as they want - no limit. In other towns where it has passed, rents have skyrocketed and forced evictions have taken place. The ***Coalition*** also defeated a proposal to exempt all 3 and 4 family buildings from rent control. This proposal would have resulted in big rent increases for nearly 1/4 of the City's tenants who live in these buildings.

Secret Agent

"Dioxin is a killer. It can hurt you and it can hurt your kids. It affects everybody, young and old. Once it is in the ground it stays there. It doesn't wear out or disappear." It can lay dormant in your system for long periods of time. In my case, nothing happened for years after I left the service. Then I decided to lose weight for my wedding, and I began to get sick. I'm 35 years old, but I have a rare back condition that makes my back like the back of an 80 year old man. I can't work. Some doctors say it's a miracle I-m not paralyzed."

John Kopystenski is a Vietnam veteran. Both he and his wife Rena are members of the Vietnam Veterans/Agent Orange Victims Association of New Jersey, an organization of those who were exposed to the chemical Agent Orange during the Viet Nam War. Agent Orange contained **dioxin**, the most dangerous man made chemical. Dioxin was found in Ironbound last spring at the Diamond Alkali plant which produced Agent Orange. Since then, it has been found at levels which are considered harmful to humans in streets around the plant and as far away as Chapel St. and Raymond Blvd.

John and Rena Kopystenski and other members of their organization led a discussion of the film ***Secret Agent*** which was shown in Ironbound Nov. 11 at Wolff Memorial Church. The movie is about Agent Orange and the disastrous effects that it has had on the health of the people of Vietnam and the United States soldiers who were also exposed to it.

The movie shows that in spite of the 1925 Geneva agreements which prohibited the use of gases and other toxic chemicals in warfare, the U.S. dropped 11 million gallons of deadly Agent Orange on Vietnam during the war, and 8 million gallons of other toxic chemicals. The chemicals were used to kill food crops and to burn and destroy hundreds of acres of trees.



U.S. soldiers were not told that Agent Orange was dangerous. Now, many of them are feeling the affects of their exposure on their health.

"We drank the water, which had been polluted with Agent Orange. We ate food sprayed with the stuff. We crawled through it on the ground," said one soldier in the film, who will be in a wheelchair the rest of his life because of his exposure to dioxin. Many children of Vietnam veterans have been born with birth defects, or died from crib death. Young men, 25 and 30 years old, who had never been sick before they went into the service, died of cancer. "We never knew what the stuff was. We never knew what it could do to us," said another soldier in the film.

The chemical companies did know. As early as 1964 workers for Dow Chemical Co. and Monsanto Chemical Co. experienced health problems caused by dioxin. Dioxin also caused serious health problems for workers at the Diamond Alkali plant which was producing Agent Orange in Newark.

In spite of this, the chemical companies continued to sell dioxin in large quantities to the U.S. government for use in the war. In one scene in ***Secret Agent***, the attitude of the chemical companies is clearly shown. An executive from Dow Chemical Company says, "If you stop us from using this chemical, we'll just invent something else, and the affects of that might be worse."

"I know that corporate America sacrificed my child to the Almighty dollar," says the wife of a veteran in the film whose child is deformed. "We've got to say to the chemical companies, you can't use people like this."

The U.S. government claims they didn't know about the disastrous effects of dioxin. But as early as 1967, 5000 of the nation's top scientists asked President Johnson who was then in office to stop using Agent Orange in Vietnam. A number of scientists on a fact finding mision to Vietnam had been shocked by the effects they had seen on the Vietnamese people and their country.

Since then, there has been additional evidence. In 1976, in Serveso, Italy, 187 children developed disfiguring chloracne after they were exposed to one half pound of dioxin which was released into the air during a chemical explosion. Thousands of animals died and the area had to be totally evacuated. When dioxin was discovered in Times Beach, Missouri, the government bought the entire town and evacuated the whole population.

Even though there is plenty of evidence from these cases and from scientific studies of the damage dioxin can do, the U.S. government and the chemical companies have refused to pay any compensation for damages to the Vietnam veterans. Instead of real compensation and health care, the Veterans Administration offered to do a "test" for anyone who thought they had been exposed to Agent Orange and were suffering health damage. "The tests were a farce," John Kopystenski says. "They said they couldn't find anything, but they didn't really test for dioxin." The tests that were done were similar to the so called health studies and exams which were done by the DEP in Ironbound after the dioxin discovery here.

Because the Veterans Administration has done nothing, 40,000 veterans have joined a suit against the government and the chemical companies asking for money to compensate for damages to their health and to continue research on dioxin and its effects.

"The government wants to downplay it because they don't want to pay for the damage they've done." said Rena Kopystenski. "It's like Ironbound. They tell you not to worry, but if there's nothing to worry about, why do they have their men running around in spacesuits? There is actually more dioxin here now than there was before they cleaned up! The government doesn't want people to know. They know what's there - but they're not going to tell you unless you demand to know. They're not going to do health tests unless you demand them."

Over 70 people attended the showing of ***Secret Agent*** which was sponsored by the **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Wastes.** The film is available for rental for other groups. Call 589-4668 for information.



NCN Community Awards

*On Oct. 26, the **Newark Coalition For Neighborhoods** held its First Annual Awards Presentation. Each community group which is a member of NCN presented an award to an active person in their community. Above, Vic De Luca from the Ironbound Community Corporation presents an award to June Kruszewski who is a member of the **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Wastes.** June has been very active in the fight to clean up toxic wastes in the Ironbound, and stop any new dangerous chemicals from polluting our neighborhood.*

Vincent St. Residents Win

A group of Vincent St. residents won a big victory on Oct. 25! Marice Rodriguez had applied for a zoning variance to park cars, trucks, and busses and do repair work in an open lot near peoples' homes and across from Hyatt Court Homes.

At the hearing on Oct. 25, at the Board of Adjustment, Mr. Rodriguez said he only wanted to park 1 bus, 1 truck and 3 cars.

However, Vincent St. residents were well prepared. Grace Fleig, a spokesperson for the group, presented the Board with photographs showing that there were already 9 to 12 cars parked on the lot.

She also had a letter showing that the cost of fire insurance for her home would increase if the repair operation was allowed to begin. There is an empty building next to the lot, where there has already been 1 fire, and residents are worried about another fire occurring.

Vincent Gallucci, an inspector for the Board, pointed out that at that point Vincent St. is a dead end street. This would mean that the truck and bus would have to turn around in the driveways causing traffic congestion and parking problems.

Eileen Fleig and Henry Kowalski also spoke for the residents. They mentioned the noise this type of operation would cause for its neighbors. Also, many children from Hyatt Court Homes play in the area. The increased traffic backing in and out would be an added danger to children in the area.

After hearing the neighbor's testimony, the Board voted against granting a zoning variance.

For the residents of Vincent St. careful preparation and organization brought success!

Morris County Residents Say "Don't Dump On Us!"

Because Ironbound residents have been spreading the word about the dangers of garbage incinerators, people in other towns where they are planning to build incinerators are joining the fight.

On October 19, more than 200 residents of Morris County crowded into the meeting room of the Morris County Solid Waste Advisory Council to protest the construction of garbage incinerators in Morris County. Residents and public officials from many towns in Morris County were united in their opposition.

During the first part of the meeting, Bechtel, a large consulting firm with ties to the U.S. Department of Defense, made a presentation about how they decided on each of the 7 possible sites in Morris County. During the presentation, residents chanted "Don't Dump On Morris County" and booed the representatives of Bechtel for not considering population density and nearness of the site to people's homes when deciding where to build the incinerators.

When the environmental commissioners from Rockaway Township got up to speak, - one of them is a member of the statewide group ***SMOKE*** which opposes garbage incinerators - the Advisory Council tried to stop them from speaking. They knew that the commissioners had done their homework and would tell the audience the truth about the dangers of burning garbage. The audience would not allow the commissioners to be silenced, because as those who would be affected by the garbage burners they wanted to know just what dangers they were facing.

The fight against garbage incinerators in Morris County is just begun. Residents are determined to defeat this proposal.

East Brunswick Residents Vote No On Garbage Incinerator

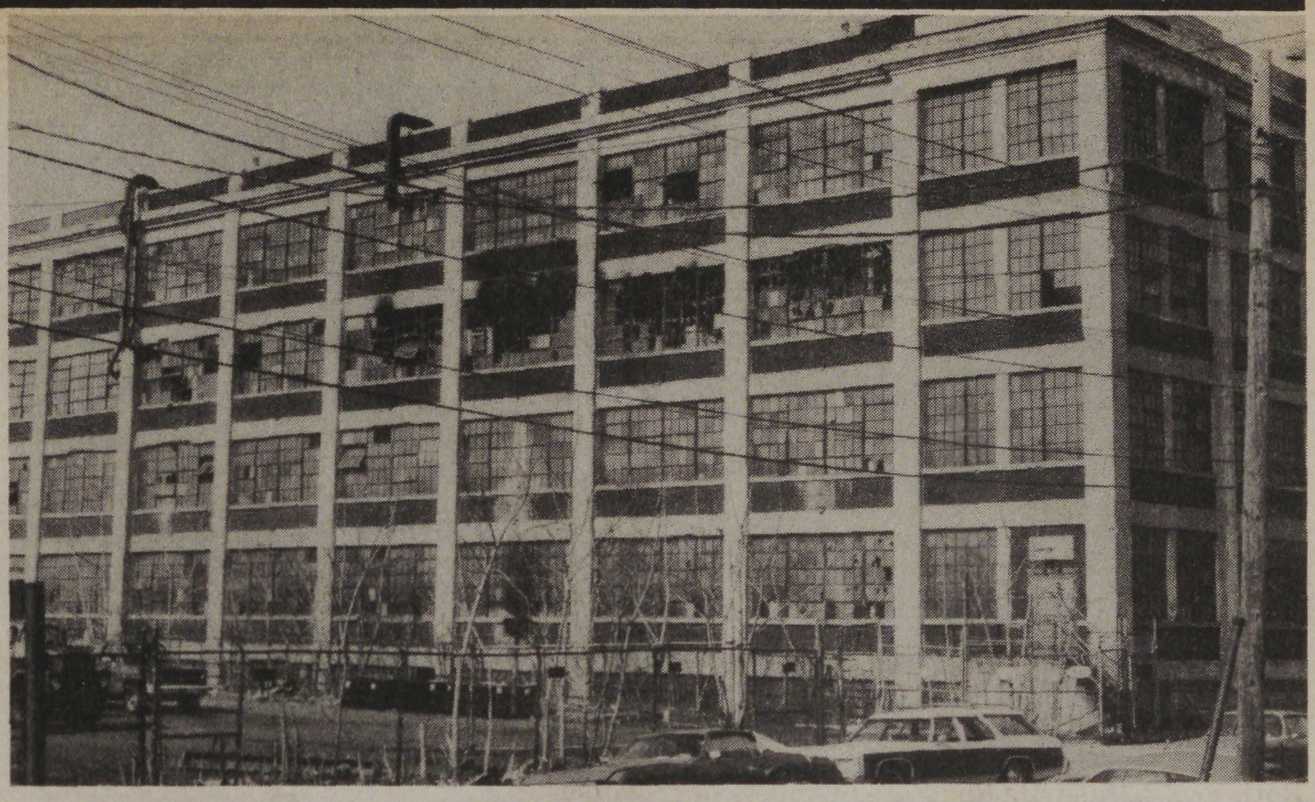
Ironbound residents are not alone in their fight to stop the dangerous air pollution that would be caused by garbage incinerators.

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, residents of East Brunswick voted almost 8 to 1 **against** a proposal by Signo Resco (formerly Wheelabrator-Frye) to build a garbage incinerator there.

2 community groups, **Independent Residents Against Toxic Environments (IRATE)** and **Citizens Against Unsafe Environments (CAUSE)**, worked hard to inform people about the dangers of burning garbage. Through their efforts a referendum was placed on the ballot about Signal Resco's proposal to build an incinerator.

The community groups held rallies, made television appearances, printed and passed out fliers, and made telephone calls to get out the vote against this proposal. The work got results when the overwhelming majority of voters voted against the proposal to build the incinerator.

Although the referendum is "non-binding", that is it does not have the force of law, it shows officials in Middlesex County and all over the state that at least 7500 voting residents of East Brunswick are opposed to the construction of large garbage incinerators. Garbage incinerators give out toxic and cancer-causing particles through their smokestacks. Also, these incinerators will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build, operate and maintain. This means much higher costs for getting rid of garbage. Having the incinerators will not mean we can get rid of landfills, because some garbage cannot be destroyed by burning.



The warehouse at 140 Thomas St.

LETTER
Our Right To Live

The following letter was sent to the Star Ledger, but was not published:

Dear Editor,

After reading Herb Jaffe's article in the Star Ledger, Oct. 24, I had to compare Chemical Control in Elizabeth to what is happening on Thomas St. in the Ironbound section of Newark. We are very concerned with just how slow the wheels of justice turn.

Since April, when there was a fire at 140 Thomas St., we have tried every way possible to have the thousands of drums moved out to avoid another catastrophic explosion with extremely toxic fire and fumes, like Chemical Control. We have had meetings with our fire officials, our assemblymen, our Councilmen, the press. We have had several demonstrations, passed out fliers, and gone to court twice. The last time was on August 15.

Judge Stanton said he wanted all parties involved to clean up their act. He gave them until September 15 to make real progress toward removing the drums. He ordered Commissioner Hughey of the DEP to be responsible to see that everything was done. As of the end of September, only about 80 drums out of 10,000 had been removed.

One Friday night I was watching television. There was a story about Thomas St. I couldn't believe it. The reporter was telling about two trailers loaded with drums of toxic chemicals that were taken from Thomas St. to Yonkers, New York. When they arrived in Yonkers, they were met by the police and sent back to New Jersey because Signo (the owners) had no permission to store toxic chemicals in the Yonkers warehouse. The chemicals were then taken to Lodi, New Jersey. The drums were unloaded in a warehouse and the trucks were sent away. The next morning they drums were reloaded on the trucks and returned to Thomas St. Nobody else wants these toxic chemicals in their town.

All of these drums are hazardous or flammable or explosive. All are extremely harmful to the children and the people and their homes. The DEP has stated that there is a real risk of an explosion at the Thomas St. warehouse. How could they allow these hazardous chemicals to be moved from Thomas St. without checking to see if they were being brought to a place where they had permission to store them? How could they leave them sit for months in the Thomas St. warehouse endangering our whole neighborhood?

Judge Stanton ruled that the DEP was responsible to make sure the clean up happened. But they're not doing their job. We in the Ironbound are not going to forget about Thomas St. and the dangers to the community. When our backs are against the wall, we stand up and fight back. We will not give up until we get results. We have to be like crusaders, carrying our fight to the ultimate victory. We are only asking for our inalienable right to live and raise our children.

Sincerely,
June Kruszewski
Ironbound Committee
Against Toxic Wastes

Making The Rich Richer

During 1981, when many people couldn't get mortgage loans, major banks set aside $80 billion to be available for big business for mergers. These investment dollars served only to make the rich richer. No new jobs were created, and production was not increased.

Trinity Reformed Church Serving The People

Trinity Reformed Church has been committed to serving the people of the Ironbound for many decades. We are commanded by the living God to serve all people, young and old alike. The church is the base of the community and must deal with present-day needs. We are aware that we are within an urban society - a society with special people who have special needs. As the needs of God's special people become greater, Trinity's community out reach becomes more needed.

To combat the bad effects of our crumbling economy, a food pantry was established at Trinity Reformed Church in September of 1981, with the help of other churches and individuals from Newark and surrounding towns. From September to December 1981, the food pantry served 57 persons. From September 1981 to October 1983, the food pantry was privileged to serve 788 families and individuals in need. We have found that the need for food is becoming more evident.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, the Church held a successful clothing giveaway. Over 25 people were able to receive badly needed clothing. The clothes were donated by many people, and by a Reformed Church in Little Falls, New Jersey. Donations of can goods and used clothing are always needed and appreciated.

Trinity also has a Sunday School program. Children between the ages of 6 and 16 are encouraged to enroll. The only requirement is the desire to learn. There is also a Youth Awareness group which meets every Friday evening 4 to 5:30 P.M., with emphasis placed on urban awareness. We also have an adult bible study which meets every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M.

We at Trinity Reformed Church are asking anyone in need of food or clothing to please call us. For food, a person should be referred by a social service agency. However, in an emergency call the Church if there is no available social service agency.

Parents are encouraged to enroll their children in our Christian Science Program. Anyone interested in the adult bible study is welcome to join.

For more information, please call Trinity Reformed Church, 483 Ferry St., Newark at 344-8228 or our pastor Reverend Lin Powell at her home 345-1357.

This article was written by Ed Irwin Jr. with input from Mrs. Harris.



Prayer

The following prayer was written by Rev. Lin Powell of Trinity Reform Church:

Let us be peacemakers.
Let us be called the people of God.
Today we declare our hope in the future.
We gather together as a community united in faith to renew our belief in the holiness of the earth and the sanctity of all life.
We declare we are at peace with all people of good will.
We need no leader to define for us an enemy, nor to tell us what we need security for and defense against.
Instead we affirm that our earth's security rests not in armaments,
but in the justice of meaningful education and work,
and in the justice of an economic order that gives everyone access to our earth's abundance.
We affirm people over property,
community over privatism,
respect for others, regardless of sex, race, or class.
We unite ourselves with sisters and brothers the world over - we are one people.
We unite ourselves with trust in the Spirit of Life;
justice and love can overcome the 'powers and principalities.'
Before us today are set life and death.
We choose life that we and our children may live.
Let it be so.

Tree Trimming
Dec. 18 at 2 P.M.
Trinity Reformed Church
483 Ferry St.
With Christmas carols & refreshments.
All invited!



St. Columba's Celebrates

The St. Columba Neighborhood Club located at 9 South St. held its first annual awards dinner on Nov. 5. The organization has programs for young people and senior citizens, and is working for better housing and recreation facilities in their neighborhood. Above, Luisa Lugardo (right) accepts an award for her volunteer work from Marielena Vela (left), director of the senior citizens program.

Students Learn A Lesson

When 16 students packed their bags this summer to fly to Mexico as part of a program sponsored by Seton Hall University, they hoped that life south of the border would be filled with the aroma of tortillas and the music of mariachi bands, according to Dr. David Abalos, coordinator of the university's summer program in Mexico.

When they landed in Mexico City, however, they discovered a country that was a far cry from the familiar image painted by colorful tourist posters and airline commercials.

Tom Villani, one of the 16 students, said he couldn't believe his eyes. "I've walked through the Bowery," explained the senior from Short Hills. "I've seen beggars and bums there. So I'm not exaggerating when I tell you that every 30 feet I saw whole families living on the streets. All I could think was 'How could people live like this?'

For two weeks prior to the trip, Dr. Abalos, an Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Sociology, led discussions about Mexico's complex political climate, economy and culture. "But there's nothing like first-hand experience," noted Abalos.

"The students were stunned by the poverty they saw," said Abalos, a South Orange resident. "It's one thing to talk about poverty in class, it's quite another thing to see it."

That impression, Abalos said, included a political enlightenment of sorts. "The guerilla movements in Mexico and elsewhere in Central America are not caused by Soviet intervention, but because people are literally starving to death - this became very clear to the students," he said.

If there is any cause for hope in Mexico, said Abalos, a great deal of it lies with the Catholic Church. Once aligned with the powerful and wealth, the Latin American bishops articulated their committment to the poor at the 1968 CELAM conference in Medellin, Colombia. "What the bishops did basically," said Abalos, "was to serve notice on the elites that the Church would no longer help to justify the violence of poverty in Latin America."

More Than 2 Years Later

Senator Frank Lautenberg accused the Salvadoran government of dragging its heels in bringing to trial the murderers of four American churchwomen, including a nun from New Jersey, in that country two and a half years ago.

Lautenberg said that the Salvadoran government has been engaging in "two and a half years of dodge and delay" in bringing the case to trial. Lautenberg said, "These 4 American citizens, devout Christians, were murdered by the troops of a government we are supporting with hundreds of millions of dollars in aid. The Reagan administration's certification of human rights in El Salvador is only becoming more of a mockery as that government takes its time prosecuting those accused."

"There is enduring support among the American people for justice and respect for human rights in our foreign policy, particularly where American citizens are murdered by foreign soldiers."

It's interesting to note that Reagan is giving the El Salvadoran government millions of dollars even though that government is guilty of killing the 4 American churchwomen. On the other hand, Reagan invaded Grenada, where no Americans had been harmed.

A memorial service for the Churchwomen killed in El Salvador which will be held Dec. 8 at the First Congregational Church, 40 S. Fullerton St., in Montclair, from 8 to 10 P.M.



Memorial Service
in honor of the 4 Churchwomen killed in El Salvador
Dec. 8 8 to 10 P.M.
First Congregational Church
40 So. Fullerton Ave., Montclair

Sponsored by: the Commission on Justice & Peace of the Archdiocese of Newark, the North Jersey Interreligious Task Force on El Salvador & Central America, and the Peacemaking Task Force of the Presbytery of Newark.

The Military

President Reagan is not the first politician to claim that the U.S. defense budget was too small and that the Russians had more weapons than we did.

In 1956, politicians claimed there was a "bomber gap", in 1960 a "missile gap", and in 1967 an "antiballistic missile gap." Each time it was discovered that no such gap existed and that the U.S. military was more powerful than Russia's. But a lot of corporations made a lot of money.



Newark Residents Protest Invasion of Grenada

"If Ronald Reagan were ***really*** *interested in peoples' welfare, we wouldn't see people in Newark sleeping on park benches at night. We wouldn't see people in Newark without jobs. We wouldn't see people without adequate health care." These were the words of Jerry Kilman from the* **Jobs With Peace Campaign** *speaking at a rally held in Newark Saturday Nov. 5 to protest the invasion of Grenada by the United States. Vic De Luca from the Ironbound Community Corporation pointed out that the money being used for the invasion could be spent for jobs, better housing, better schools, less expensive health care, and other pressing needs of people in this country. More than 50 people attended the demonstration which was organized by the* **Jobs With Peace Campaign.**

Movie Review

"Dawn of the People"

Over 70 people came to see the film *Dawn of the People* October 28 at Trinity Reformed Church.

The film *Dawn of the People* is about the literacy campaign, a program to teach everyone to read, that took place in Nicaragua in 1980 after the revolution. In this country we say, 'Don't sign it until you read it.' Imagine the problems you would have if you could not read a contract, a letter, a newspaper or a job advertisement.

In Nicaragua during Somoza's dictatorship, most of the people could not read, had little to eat, and lived in poor and unhealthy housing. Because of these terrible living conditions, the people fought back and succeeded in overthrowing Somoza - Nicaragua's revolution. The Catholic Church was a strong supporter of the revolution, and the new government has several priests in its top leadership.

The new government decided that it was important to teach people to read so they could participate in the efforts to change the conditions around them. The literacy campaign in 1980 lasted 6 months. 70,000 young Nicaraguan people volunteered to teach basic reading and writing to others. They successfully taught **500,000** people to read. The rate of illiteracy in Nicaragua went from 52% to 13%. The volunteers went to cities and rural areas. They taught everyone - children and adults.

In the movie, one volunteer is conducting a discussion with his class. "Why didn't the Somoza regime teach people to read?" he asks. A man in his 50's who is learning to read for the first time says with excitement, "Because they didn't want us to know anything. They didn't want us to participate. They wanted to use us and give us nothing in return, to keep us in darkness. Now we can see the light."

Learning to read would be the first step to changing the conditions which Somoza's government had caused. When people can read, they can find out what is going on around them, and they can learn their legal rights. They can take steps to organize themselves and protect their interests. They can discover the facts, not just rely on what someone else, who may not have their interests at heart, tells them.

Dawn of the People showed the real reasons for the revolution in Nicaragua and some of its accomplishments. Normally, we hear only the U.S. government saying that the revolution in Nicaragua is "communistic". The U.S. put the Somoza family in power in Nicaragua and supported the dictatorship there. The U.S. government continues to give money to Somoza supporters who are currently fighting the new Nicaraguan government.

"It makes me so angry to see our country interfering in Nicaragua when all they want is a chance to run their country and live in peace," said Sister Carla Barr from the Archdiocese of Newark. Sister Carla was one of a group of 150 religious Americans who visited Nicaragua in June 1983. She and others who went to Nicaragua spoke about their trip, and commented on the film. "All the money that Nicaragua needs to build new housing and get medical supplies and schools now has to be used to buy weapons, because our government is giving weapons to those who are trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government."

John Bins, from the Intereligious Task Force on Central America, urged people to do whatever they could to keep the United States from invading Nicaragua next. He suggested that everyone send letters to their Congressmen.

Father Nickas from St. Rocco's Church in Newark, who also went to Nicaragua, said it gave him hope to see the number of people who attended the film and were interested and willing to do something. Mary Ann Fenwick, from Blessed Sacrament Church in Newark also commented on the film.

The film *Dawn of the People* is available to be shown to other groups. Call Nancy at 344-7208 if you would like more information.

The showing of *Dawn of the People* was sponsored by the **Newark Unity Campaign**, a citywide group working for better living conditions through community organizing and independent electoral campaigns.



St. Columba's

*Localizado na 9 South St., **St. Columba's Neighborhood Club** teve o seu primeiro jantar com premios em Nov. 5 A organização tem programa para a gente nova e idousa, e trabalham para uma melhor area, melhor residencias, e actividade no bairro. Luisa Lugardo aceitou o premio por os trabalhos volumtarios dados por Marie lena Vela (esquerda), directora do senior programa.*

Os Inquilinos Conseguem Grande Victória

No dia 19 de Outubro, a ***Coligação Para Salvaguardar o Control das Rendas (Coalition To Save Rent Control)*** conseguiu uma grande victória quando o Conselho da Cidade votou unanimamente contra as alterações da lei que controla as rendas, a qual poderia ter causado grande aumento de rendas. As mudan ças propostas tinham a fim de aumentar uma média de $200 (dóllars) por cada apartamento (adicionado ao automático aumento de 6%).

A ***Coligação do Control das Rendas*** está a planear a celebração desta victória em 29 de Novembro.

"É uma grande victória para os inquilinos," disse Frank Hutchins da Organização dos Inquilinos de Newark. "Os inquilinos tem pago rendas cada vez mais caras todos os anos. Quando os custos do combustível aumentam os inquilinos pagam o aumento. Quando as taxas sobem os inquilinos pagam por isso. Nós não conseguimos economizar para pagar rendas tão altas. Temos que estabelecer um limite. Dissémos ao Conselho da Cidade que a maioria dos residentes nesta Cidade são inquilinos. Nós dissemos-lhe também, que estávamos atentos para ver como votavam, e eles souberam votar. Obviamente eles ouviram-nos."

Bob Cartwright da ***Coaligação do Control das Rendas*** frisou na 1ª votação que somente o deputado Tucker votou a favor dos inquilinos. Todos os restantes membros votaram a favor das mudanças as quais iriam beneficiar os proprietários. "Mantendo-nos unidos damos a volta a esta votação," disse Sr. Cartwright.

As mudanças anti-inquilinos foram escritas por um Comité do Tribunal do Comércio consistindo de grandes proprietários e homens de negócios e o Newark Rent Control Board. Os inquilinos não estavam envolvidos. Desde que as alterações foram escritas na última primavera a ***Coaligação*** tem lutado contra elas. Esta ***Coligação*** porpôs também outras mudanças para melhor proteger os inquilinos. Algumas dessas medidas são:

- Baixar o automático aumento de 6% para 3.5%. Outras cidades têm desde há muito tempo, um incremento mais baixo do que Newark.
- Se as taxas decrescerem, os inquilinos estão habilitados a uma rebaixa.
- Multas ou outras penalidades para os proprietários que não constarem do Rent Control Board.
- O custo dos combustíveis está a decaventão eliminem as despesas extras do combustível.

"Nos ganhámos esta batalha porque as pessoas mantiveram-se activas e fizeram ouvir as suas vozes," disse Nancy Zak da ***Coligação do Control das Rendas.*** "Nos fomos cónvidados a falar mas reuniões de toda a cidade. Pedimos às pessoas para telefonarem ou escreverem aos seus conselheiros e eles fizeram-no. As pessoas vieram às reuniões do City Hall dia e noite. Os deputados receberam cartas sobre este assunto. Isso fê-los pensar duas vezes antes de votar. Isto é o que acontece quando as pessoas se mantém unidas - successo!"

No ano passado a ***Coligação*** reprovou uma proposta que podia ter significado que todos os proprietrios podiam mudar de inquilinos com rendas tão altas quanto eles quisessem - não haveria limite. Noutras cidades onde isto se passou as rendas subiram vertiginosamente, forçaram os despejos. A ***Coligação*** derrotou tambem uma proposta para excluir todos os prédios de 3 e 4 familias do control das rendas. Esta proposta teria resultado num grande aumento de rendas em cerca de 1/4 dos inquilinos da cidade pois vivem nesses prédios.

A ***Coligação Para Salvaguardar o Control das Rendas*** planeia continuar a trabalhar por um decente alojamento e rendas tais que os residentes de Newark possam pagar. Chame Nancy para o nº 344-7210 para mais informação.



Os Residentes Da Vincent St. Ganharam

Um groupo de residentes da Vincent St. ganharam com grande victoria no dia 25 de Outubro.

Marice Rodrigues fez uma aplicação para permitirem o parke de carros, camionetes, autocarros e carros para reparação num lote junto de resedencias emfrente do Hyatt Court.

Na comference em Out. 25 no Board de Adejustamentos, Mr. Rodrigues disse que so desejava por ali 3 carros, 1 camionete, 1 autocarro.

Mas os ali residentes ja estavam preparados com fotos que mostraram e provaram que tem por vezes o lote 9 a 12 carros. Fotos esses aprezetados por Grace Fleig que falou pelo groupo.

Tambem foi apresentado por ela uma carta da companhia de seguro da casa que é dona com um aumento se por acaso as reparações dos carros forem permetido. Existe um edificio abandunado ao lado do lote que já esteve com fogo e residentes tem medo de outro fogo.

Vincent Gallucci inspector do Board de que Vincent St. é rua sen saida o que faz que os carros tem de fazer ai manobra para voltaren na rua o que faz problemas tanto para parkiar como para o tranzito.

Eileen Fleig e Henry Kowalski falou pelos residentes. Falaram que o barulho que esses trabalhos trazen para a area. Assim como muitas crianças das casas Hyatt Court brincam nesta area. Com o movimento de mais transito traz perigo para as crianças.

Depois de o Board escutar todas as queixas dos residentes votaram comtre ao permite de ali se fazer tal parke.

Para os residentes da Vincent St. foi uma victoria com grande sucesso!

Residentes De East Brunswick Votam Contra A Incineração

O residentes de Ironbound não estão sós na sua luta contra a perigosa poluição do ar causada pelos incineradores do lixo.

Na terca-feira, 8 de Novembro, os moradores de East Brunswick votaram quase 8 por 1 **contra** a proposta da Signal Resco para a construção dum incinerador do lixo em East Brunswick.

Residentes Independentes Contra Tóxicos no Ambiente (Independent Residents Against Toxic Environments) e **Cidadaos Contra os Perigos do Ambiente (Citizens Against Unsafe Environments)**, dois grupos da comunidade de East Brunswick, trabalharam árduamente para informar os moradores acerca dos perigos da cremação do lixo. Através dos seus esforços foi colocado em votação um referendo contra a proposta da Signal Resco para a construção dum incinerador do lixo. Reuniões, aparições na televisão, imprensa, distribuição de panfletos e brochuras e chamadas telefónicas, trabalharam para conseguir os votos contra a dita proposta.

Apesar do referendo ser 'não-obrigatório', isto é, não força a lei, mostrou-nos os resultados oficiais no Middlesex County e por todo o estado pelo menos 7500 residentes votantes de East Brunswick opuseram-se á construção de grandes incineradores do lixo. Estes expelem, através das suas fumaças, partículas tóxicas causadoras de cancer. Estes incineradores custarão também centenas ou milhares de dóllars para construir, operar e manter. Isto significa custos muito mais elevados para nos livrarmos do lixo. Os incineradores não significam que nos livramos de certas acumulações, porque algum lixo não é detruído pelo fogo.

DIOXIN - Cobriram, Não Limparam

"O problema do dioxin ainda não foi solucionado. Nenhuma das agencias governamentais querem saber do bem estar da população," disse June Kruszewski. "Eles não estão protegendo nossa saúde e segurança. Ao contrário, eles protegem os lucros das companhias químicas."

Nas últimas semanas, um número de factos realcionado com a contaminação do dioxin tem surgido:

- A limpeza não foi bem sucedida.
- A area contaminada pelo dioxin é maior o que a admitida pelo governo.
- O lixo contaminado pelo dioxin ficará no Ironbound.
- Os poucos testes de saúde realizado em trabalhadores perto da fabrica de dioxin nunca foram completados.

A **Comissão Dos Direitos Da Saúde do Ironbound** forçou o DEP a fornecer aos residentes do Ironbound cópias de alguns dos resultados dos testes realizados. Pesquisadores analizaram os resultados para a **Comissão dos Direitos da Saude do Ironbound** e concluiram que a limpeza feita pelo governo não foi suficiente. Numa conferencia com a imprensa no dia 3 de novembro, a **Comissão** apontou 2 possiveis rasões:

1. As pessoas que fizeram a limpeza não limparam bem ou
2. A area foi recontaminada por dioxin proveniente das areas por onde o material foi transportado.

Segundo a **Comissão**, das 19 partes que foram limpas, 17 ainda estavam contaminadas depois da 'limpeza.' "Talves eles não sabem o que esto falendo ou talvez toda esta operação de limpeza seja para acalmar a opinião pública," disse Bob Cartwright.

A Comissão dos Direitos da Saúde do Ironbound descobriram que todo os lugares testado pelo governo, eles encontraram dioxin. Até o momento, isto inclue a area da Chapel até a Blanchard St. e da Lister Av. até Ferry St. Partes destas areas estão altamente contaminadas. Outras areas tem pouca contaminação.



No dia 3 de nov. o **Comissão Dos Direitos Da Saúde do Ironbound** *teve uma comferencia soubre o dioxin. Os que falaram foi (da esquera para a direita) Bob Cartwright, Councilman Henry Martinez, Freeholder Angelo Cifelli, Arnold Cohen, Mary Ann Vacuolo, e June Kruszewski.*

O Lixo do Dioxin

O lixo contaminado pelo dioxin foi limpo de algumas ruas e foi armazenados num terreno na Raymond Blvd. por 3 meses. Então, SCA recebeu a importancia de $175.000 através de um contracto afim de tirar o lixo de lá. A companhia disse que o lixo seria queimado em Lewistown, New York.

Os residentes daquela area já tem tido más experiencias com o transporte de lixo toxicos pela SCA. SCA tem cometido violações em Lewistown nos ultimos 5 anos. Os residentes tem tido problemas de saúde causados pela poluição atmosférica. Eles organizaram uma **Operação Limpeza** afim de lutar contra as ações da SCA

"Não queremos piorar os problemas do povo de New York. O governo somente está olhando para outra justificação para desculpar sua incopetencia na solução deste problema," disse Arnold Cohen.

As pipas de dioxin estão agora sendo armazenados na antiga fabrica Diamond Alkali Plant na Lister Av.

Testes De Saúde?

No último mes de Junho, quando o problema do dioxin foi descoberto e anunciado, os residentes do Ironbound exigiram exames completo de saúde para todos os que foram expostos ao dioxin. O governo recusou. Ao contrario, eles concordaram em fazer alguns testes nos trabalhadores da SCA e Marisol. Recentemente o governo admitiu que eles nem mesmo realizaram os testes de laboratório que eram para serem feitos. Disseram que não conseguiram encontrar um laboratório para aqueles testes visto serem materiais especiais. A verdade é que este é um teste comum e que leva entre 2 - 5 dias - não 5 meses. Foi dito aos trabalhadores que eles teriam os resultados dos exames em um mes.

O DEPK esta escrevendo notas para a imprensa dizendo que estão fazendo um grande trabalho de limpeza de dioxin no Ironbound, más os factos mostram que estão "cobrindo" e não limpando.

UMA CARTA

O Nosso Direito De Viver

Senhor Editor:

Depois de ler o artigo de Herb Jaffe no jornal Star Ledger de 24 de Outubro, não tive outra alternativa senão comparar o caso da firma Chemical Control de Elizabeth com o que está a acontecer na Thomas Street, no bairro do Ironbound da cidade de Newark. Preocupa-nos a lentidão com que as rodas da justiça se movimentam!

Desde Abril, quando ocorreu um incêndio em 140 Thomas St., que temos procurado todas as possíveis vias para remover milhares de barris e assim evitar outra catástrofe de fogo e fumo tóxicos, tal qual se registou na Chemical Control. Temos tido reuniões com oficiais de Departamento de Incêndios, com os nossos deputados, vereadores e também com a Imprensa. Efectuámos várias demonstrações, distribuimos panfletos, e duas vezes fomos ao Tribunal. A última vez foi em 15 de Agosto.

O Juiz Stanton exigiu que cada qual tratasse do que lhe competia. O mesmo juiz fixou 15 de Setembro como data para remoção de alguns dos barris. Ao mesmo tempo, ele pôs o Comissário Hughey, da Agência DEP, à frente da questão e ordenou-o responsável para que algo fosse feito. No final de Setembro, apenas 80 barris havia sido removidos.

Numa das últimas noites de sexta-feira, estando a ver Televisão, a minha atenção foi chamada para um caso relativo à Thomas Street. Nem podia acreditar! O repórter falava de duas camionetas carregadas com barris contendo produtos tóxicos que de Newark se dirigiam a Yonkers, New York. Quando ali chegaram, foram mandados pela Polícia novamente para Newark, porque a companhia transportadora não tinha autorização para armazenar produtos tóxicos em Yonkers. O carregamento foi então enviado para Lodi, New Jersey. Os barris ficaram aí armazenados até à manhã seguinte quando então voltaram novamente para a Thomas Street. Ninguém quer produtos tóxicos na sua localidade.

Todos estes materiais são perigosos, flamáveis e explosivos. Todos são extremamente perigosos para pessoas e habitações. A Agência DEP afirmou que não há perigo de explosão na Thomas Street. Como é que então tentaram colocar tais produtos noutra localidade sem terem licença para isso fazer? Como podem tais materiais continuar retidos na Thomas St. com grande perigo para a população local?

O Juis Stanton disse que a DEP seria responsável pela eliminação desses produtos tóxicos. Contudo, a DEP não tem executado tal orden. Nós, no Ironbound, não vamos esquecer o perigo a que a comunidade se acha exposta. Quando as nossas costas estiveram voltadas para a parede, manter-nos-e-mos firmes e lutaremos. Não desistiremos até obter os resultados desejados. Contamos com os nossos "lutadores" até que a última batalha seja travada. Apenas pedimos o nosso inalianável direito de viver e criar os nossos filhos.

Sinceramente,
June Kruszewski
Comité do Ironbound
Contra Produtos Tóxicos

Estudantes Tiveram Uma Lição De Pobreza

Quando 16 estudantes fizeram as malas este verão para viajar ao Mexico como parte de um programa subsidiado pela Universidade Seton Hall, sonhavam com que a vida lá pela fronteira do sul fosse cheia com o cheiro das tortilhas, e com musica dos grupos Mariachis, de acordo com o Dr. David Abalos, coordenador dos programas de verão da Universidade, no Mexico.

Porém quando eles chegaram á cidade de Mexico, descobriram um país que era tristemente diferente das conhecidas imagens pintadas nos cartazes turistas das companhias aéreas.

Tom Villani, um dos 16 estudantes, disse que não podia acreditar no que via. "Eu caminhei através dos campos," dizia o jovem de Short Hills. "Vi lá muitos mendigos. Não exagero se vos digo que em cada 10 metros en vi familias inteiras vivendo na rua. Tudo o que en pude pensar foi 'Como pessoas podem viver assim?' "

Nas duas semanas anteriores à viagem, o Dr. Abalos, um Professor Associado de Estudos Religiosos e Sociologia, dirigiu discussões sobre a politica, o clima, a economia e a cultura do Mexico. "Mas não há nada como a experiencia de primeira-mão," disse Abalos.

"Os estudantes estão aturdidos pela pobreza que vivam," disse Abalos, um residente de South Orange. "Falar de pobreza na classe é uma coisa, mas vê-la é outra coisa."

Essa impressão, disse Abalos, incluiu um genero de esclarecimento politico. "Os movimentos guerrilheiros no Mexico e em outros sítios de America Central não são causados por intervenção Sovietica, mas porque as pessoas estão morrendo de fome - isto esclarecerá os estudantes," disse Abalos.

Se não há motivo de esperança no Mexico, disse Abalos, uma grande parte disso cabe à igreja Catolica. Uma vez alinhados com o poder e a riqueza, os Bispos Latino-Americanos articularam a ordem de prisão para os pobres, na conferencia de 1968 CELAM em Medellin, Colombia. "O que os Bispos fizeram basicamente," disse Abalos. "Foi para notificar às elites que a igreja não iria ajudar a justificar a violencia de pobreza na America Latina."



Os Residentes De Newark Protestam Pela Invasão De Grenada

"Se Ronald Reagan esta entereçado pelo bem do povo como não ve ele o povo que em Newark dorme as noites nos bancos dos parkes. Não vera tambem o povo em Newark que não tem trabalho, que não tem proteção no ramo de saude." Este são as palavras de Jerry Kilman da **Campanha Para Trabalho Com paz** *falando no protesto que ouve em Newark sabado Nov. 5, pela invasão feita pelos Estados Unidos a Grenada. Vic De Luca do Ironbound sitou que seria melhor que o dinheiro gasto na invasao fosse gasto na nação em trabalhos, melhor casas, escolas, e ajuda medical, e noutras necessidades que tanto é necessario neste paiz. Mais de 50 pessoas atenderan a demostração que foi organizada por* **Companha Para Melhor Trabalhos Com Paz.**

Cinema

'Alvorada Do Povo"

Mas de 70 pessoas assistiram à exibição do filme ***Alvorada Do Povo (Dawn of the People)*** no dia 28 de Outubro na Trinity Reformed Church.

Este filme trata da campanha de alfabetização levada a cabo na Nicaragua em 1980 depois de revolução. Durante a ditadura dos Somozá, a maioria do povo era analfabeta, tinha pouco que comer, e vivia em habitações degradadas. Devido a esta miséria toda, o povo levantou-se e derrubou a corrupta ditadura. A igreja Católica deu o seu apoio à revolução, e vê-se representada no novo governo através de vários sacerdotes.

O novo regime decidiu que para reconstruir o país uma condição indispensável era a alfabetização do povo para que ele pudesse participar activamente nesse empenho. A campanha de alfabetização em 1980 durou seis meses. Para cima de 70,000 voluntários dedicaram-se ao ensino dos conhecimentos básicos a adultos e crianças. Devido a este esforço, meio milho de Nicaraguenses aprenderam a ler e a esclever. A taxa de analfabetismo desceu de 52% para 13%.

No filme um voluntário pergunta durante uma aula: "Porque é que o regime do Somoza não ensinou o povo a ler?" Um homem de 50 anos que aprende a ler pela primeira vez responde com entusiasmo, "Porque eles queriam que nada soubessemos. Queriam que não participassemos. queriam usar-nos sem nos dar nada em troco, manter-nos na escuridão. Agora já abrimos os olhos."

A alfabetização seria o primeiro passo na caminhada para modificar as condições impostas pelo regime Somozista. Um povo que sabe ler, pode aperceber-se da realidade que o rodeia, pode descobrir os seus direitos legais, organizar-se e proteger-se contra os atropelos. Esse povo pode ir à raiz dos factos em vez de se apoiar nas interpretações de terceiros.

A ***Alvorada Do Povo*** mostra as razões reais que estão por detrás da revolução Nicaraguense, e alguns dos seus sucessos. Habitualmente ouvimos dizer ao governo norte-americano que a revolução na Nicarágua é de origem 'comunista.' Foi o governo norte-americano quem pôs a família Somoza no poder e estabeleceu a ditadura. Hoje, o governo norte-americano continua a fornecer apoio aos discípulos de Somoza que lutam contra o novo regime.

"Aumenta-me a cólera quando vejo o nosso país interferir na Nicarágua quando tudo que eles querem é uma oportunidade para governarem o seu país e viver em paz," disse a Irmã Carla Barr da Arquidiocese de Newark. A Irmã Carla foi uma de 150 religiosos que visitaram a Nicarágua em Junho de 1983. Ela e outros que visitaram aquele país falaram sobre a sua visita e sobre o filme. "Todo o dinheiro que a Nicarágua precisa para construir novas habitações e adquirir medicamentos, tem que ser agora desviado para a compra de armamentos, porque o nosso governo dá armas aqueles que pretendem derrubar o governo Nicaraguense."

John Bins pediu à assistência para fazer tudo possível para impedir que os E.U.A. invadam a Nicarágua. Ele sugeriu que todos escrevessem aos membros do congresso norte-americano.

O padre Nickas da igreja de S. Rocco's em Newark que também esteve naquele páis disse que lhe dava esperança em ver o número de pessoas que assistiram ao filme e que se interessavam por fazer qualquer coisa. Mary Ann Fenwick, da Igreja do Sagrago Sacramento, em Newark, também comentou o filme.

O filme está à disposição de outros grupos que o queiram exibir. Para mais informações contactar Nancy ligando para o 344-7208.

A exibição da ***Alvadorada Do Povo*** foi subsidiada pela 'Newark Unity Campaign' um grupo de foro municipal que luta por melhores condições de vida através da participação política independente.

DIOXIN - Un Cubierto No Limpieza

"El problema de dioxin no se ha resuelto. Ninguna agencia del govierno se interesa por nosotros," dijo June Kruszewski. "No estan protejiendo nuestra salud y bienestar. En vez protejen las ganancias de las compañias de quimicas."

Durante las ultimas semanas, un numero de echos acerca de contaminación de dioxin han salido:

- La limpieza ha fallado.
- El dioxin se ha regado por una area mucho mas amplia de lo que el govierno primeramente admitio.
- La tierra contaminada con dioxin que fue barrida se quedara en el Ironbound.
- Los pocos analises hechos en trabajadores en las plantas cercanas nunca fueron completados.

Una demanda hecha por el **Ironbound Health Rights Advisory Commission** contra el DEP en Agosto finalmente obligo al DEP a dar a los residentes del Ironbound copias de algunos de los rseultados de los examenes. Investigadores analizaron el data para el Ironbound Health Rights Commission y concluyeron que la limpieza hecha por el govierno fue un fracazo. Em una conferencia hecha en Nov. 3 la commision apunto a 2 posible razones:

1. La cuadrilla asiendo el trabajo de limpieza no lo hizo o
2. El area se re-contamino por dioxin del area siendo transportado otros a las calles.

De acuerdo a la Commission, de 19 piezas del area de limpieza, 17 partes aun estaban contaminada con dioxin despues de la limpieza. "Quizas no saben lo que estan asiendo, o quizas toda la 'limpieza' fue solamente un truco de relaciones publica," dija Bob Cartwright.

El **Ironbound Health Rights Advisory Commission** tambien encontro que dondequiera que el govierno provo, encontro dioxin. Hasta ahora esto incluye el area desde Chapel hasta Blanchard St. y desde Lister Ave. a Ferry St. Partes de esta area estan altamente contaminadas. Otras areas tienen un grado menor de contaminacion.



*En Nov. 3 el Committee de Derecho Advisorio de Salud de Ironbound auspicio una conferencia de prensa acerca de **dioxin**. Los habladores fueron (de isquierda a derecha), Bob Cartwright, Consejero Henry Martinez, Freeholder Angelo Cifelli, Arnold Cohen, Mary Ann Vacuolo, y June Kruszewski.*

La Tierra Contaminada

La tierra contaminada con dioxin fue brarrida de las calles y guardada en un lote en Raymond Blvd. por 3 meses. Despues SCA tuvo un contrato por $175,000 para desasesse de la tierra. La compania dijo que hiba a enterrar el dioxin en Lewistown, New York.

Residentes de esa area han tenido continuas malas experiencias con la manera del SCA's manejando el toxicos. Violaciones han sido encontradas en el sitio de SCA en Lewistown por los ultimos 5 años. Residentes del bairro han tenido problemas con severa polución del aire causando problemas de salud. Residentes hay han organizado **Operación Limpia** para pelear el SCA.

"No queremos empeorar los problemas para la gente de New York. El govierno esta buscando por otro escapatorio para hechar la culpa por su inacción," dijo Arnold Cohen.

Los drones de dioxin estan siendo guardados ahora en el anterriormente Diamond Alkali planta en Lister Ave.

Examenes de Salud?

En Junio pasado, cuando el descubrimiento del dioxin fué anunciado, los residentes de Ironbound demandaron examenes de salud completos para cada persona que hubiera sido expuesta al dioxin. El gobierno no quiso. En vez de eso ellos acordaron hacerle algunos examenes a trabajadores en SCA y Marisol.

El gobierno recientemente admitió que ellos nunca ni siguiera nunca hicieron los examenes de laboratorio que ellos dijeron que hiban hacer. El gobierno dijo que ellos no encontraron facilidades para hacer lo examenes, porque era un examen especial. La verdad es que es un lab común y corriente que el examen coge entre 2 - 5 dias y no 5 meses. Le han dicho a los trabajadores que ellos no pueden coger los resultados en un mes.

El DEP está escribiendo articulos diciendo el buen trabajo que estan haciendo limpiando el dioxin aqui en Ironbound, pero los hechos enseñan que eso es una falsedad no una limpieza.

CARTA: *Nuestra Derecho De Vivir*

Querido Editor:

Despues de leer el articulo de Herb Jaffe en el Star Ledger, de Octubre 24, yo tengo que comparar el Control de Quimicos en Elizabeth con lo que se pasa en Thomas St. en la sección de Ironbound en Newark. Nosotros estamos tremendamente preocupados de ver con la lentitud que las reudas de la justicia andan.

Desde Abril, cuando hubo un fuego en el 140 de Thomas St. hemos venido tratando de todas las maneras posibles de sacar miles de barriles para asi evitar otra catastrofe explosiva, con demasiado fuego explosivo y humos como "Chemical Control." Hemos tenido reuniones con los bomberos, con los Asambleistas y tambien con los Consejales. Hemos tenido varias reuniones y hemos repartido volantes Hemos tambien ido a la Corte por dos veces, la utlima vez fue el 15 de Agosto.

Judge Stanton dijo que el quiere que todas las partes ayuden a la lipieza de dichos barriles. El dio entonces hasta el 15 de Septiembre para que se haga un progreso real en lo concerniente a dichos barriles. El le ordeno al Comisario Hughey de el DEP, para que sea el responsable de ver que estos barrilos fueran removidos. Para fines de Septiembre **solamente 80 de los 10.000 barriles fueron removidos!**

El viernes por la noche yo estaba mirando televisión, habia un historia relacionada con Thomas St. que yo no podia creer. El reporte decia que 2 camiones llenos de barriles con quimicos tóxicos que habian sido llevados de Thomas St. a Yonkers en New York, cuando ellos llegaron a Yonkers se encontraron con la policia la cual los devolvio para New Jersey porque Signo (los dueños) no tenia permiso para guardar quimicos tóxicos en el almacen en Yonkers. Los quimicos fueron entonces llevados y descargados en Lodi, New Jersey, y los camiones se fueron. Al dia siguiente los barriles fueron nuevamente colocados en los camiones y enviados a Thomas St. Nadie mas quiere esos quimicos tóxicos en sus ciudades.

Todos esos barriles son peligroso y son explosivos. Son extremadmaente peligrosos para los niños y para los adultos y tambien para sus casas. El DEP ha establecido que hay realmente un riesgo de una explosión en el almacen de Thomas St. Como pudieron ellos mover esos quimicos tan peligrosos sin primero haber tenido la seguridad de que les permitirian guardarlos? Como pueden ellos dejarlos en Thomas St. por meses apeligrando toda nuestra vecindad?

Judge Stanton dijo que el quiere que todas las partes ayuden a la limpieza de dichos barriles. El dio entonces hasta el 15 trabajo, y nosotros en Ironbound no nos olvidaremos acerca de Thomas St. y el dano para la Comunidad. Cuando estemos de espaldas contra la pared, nosotros nos levantaremos y lucharemos a favor de lo nuestro. Nosotros no desistiremos hasta que no tengamos los resultados. Nosotros somo como las cruzadas luchando por nuestro derecho hasta la ultima victoria. Nosotros unicamente estamos pidiendo por un derecho de vivir y levantar nuestros hijos.

Sinceramente,
June Kruszewski
Comité En Contra
Los Desperdicios Tóxicos

Los Inquilinos Ganan Victoria



El Club De Barrio

El Club de la Barrio de St. Columba's, localizado en 9 South St. auspicio su primera cena anual de entrega de reconocimientos esto fue Nov. 5 La organización tiene programas para gente joven y ancianos y esta trabajando para mejorar facilidades de recreación en nuestras vecindarias. Arriba, Luisa Lugardo, reciba su reconomicimiento por su trabajo por Marielena Vela (a la isquierda), director del programa por los ancianos.

¡Los Residentes de Vincent St. Ganan!

Un grupo de residentes de Vincent St. ganaron una victoria grande en el día 25 de Octubre. Marice Rodriguez había aplicado para una variación de zona que permitaría el aparcamiento de coches y camiones y dejar que se hicieran reparaciones en un lote cerco de casas residenciales. Estas casas quedan cerca de Hyatt Court Homes.

En la audiencia del día 25 de Octubre en la Junta de Ajuste, el Señor Rodrigues dijo que solo queria aparcar 1 autobus, 1 camion y tres coches.

Pero los residentes estaban bien preparados. Grace Fleig, una de los residentes, mostro a la Junta fotos de los 9 a 12 automobiles que ya estaban aparcados en ese lote.

Ella tambien mostro una carta que indicaba como su seguro de casa iba subir si reparaciones se permitaria cerco de su casa. Ya hubo un fuego cercano en un edificio vacio.

El señor Vincent Gallucci, un inspector para la junta, señalo que la calle Vincent St. es una calle de una sala salida. Esto hara que camiones y autobuses tendran que dar la vuelta en caminos particulares. Mas problemas de trafico occurarian.

Eileen Fleig y Henry Kowalski tambien defendieron los residentes. Mencionaron el ruido que este tipo de operación causaria. Tambien dijeron que los niños de Hyatt Court Homes estarian en mas peligro.

Despues del testimonio la Junta voto en contra del permiso.

Para los residentes de Vincent St. su preparación y organización les trajo exito.

En Octubre 19, la ***Coalición Para Salvar El Control De Rentas*** obtuvó una victoria grande, cuando la asamblea municipal voto por unanimidad en contra de los cambios de la ley de control de rentas, cuando est pudo haber causado un aumento grande en las rentas. El propuesto cambio pudo haber sido por $200. por cada apartamiento (en adición al 6% del aumento automatico).

La ***Coalición Para Salvar el Control De Rentas*** esta planeando una celebración de la victoria en Noviembre 29.

"Esto es una victoria grande para los inquilinos," dijo Frank Hutchins, de la Organización de Inquilinos de Newark. "Los inquilinos han estado pagando rentas muy altas todos los años. Cuando el costo del aceite sube, los inquilinos pagan el aumento. Cuando el impuesto sube, los inquilinos pagan por esto. Nosotros no podemos pagar rentas altas. Tenemos que tirar la linea en algún sitio. Nosotros le dijimos a la Asamblea Municipal que la mayoria que residen en la Ciudad son inquilinos. Nosotros le dejamos saber que lo estabamos observando para ver como votaban."

Bob Cartwright, de la ***Coalición Para Salvar el Control de Rentas*** indicó que el primer voto de la Asamblea Municipal lo fué el Asambleista Tucker quien voto a favor de los inquilinos. El resto de la Asamblea Municipal votarón a favor de los cambios lo cuál estos benefician a los dueños de edificios. "Por nosotros estar organisados triumfamos engirar el voto," dijo Sr. Cartwright.

Los cambios de los anti-inquilinos fueron escrito por el Comite de la Camara de Comercio, que componen los grandes caseros y hombres de negocios y la Junta de Control de Rentas de Newark. Los inquilinos no estuvieron envueltos. Cuando se escribieron los cambios en la primavera pasada, la ***Coalición Para Salvar el Control de Rentas*** ha estado luchando en contra de ellos. La ***Coalición*** tambien propuso cambios que pueden proteger mejor a los inquilinos. Algunos de estos cambios son:

- Bajar el aumento automatico del 6% al 3.5%
- Si los impuestos bajan los inquilinos tienen derecho a una rebaja
- Multas o otras penalidades a los dueños de edificios, que no se registren con la Junta de Control de Rentas
- Si los gastos de aceite bajan hay que eliminar el cargo que los inquilinos tienen que pagar.

"Nosotros ganamos está lucha porque el publico estuvo activo y hicieron que sus voces fueran escuchadas," comentó Nancy Zak de la ***Coalición Para Salvar el Control de Rentas.*** "Fuimos invitados para hablar en toda la ciudad. Le hemos dicho al publico que llamen o le escriban a sus Asambleistas y asi lo hicierón. El publicó estuvo presente en las reuniones llevadas acabo en la Alcaldia. Los Asambleistas recibierón cartas de las personas en cada distrito, acerca de esta disputa. Esto hizo que ellos pensaran mejor de como votar. Esto es lo que pasa cuando el publico trabaja unidos.!"

El año pasado, la ***Coalición Para Salvar el Control de Rentas*** hizo un paro para el **descontrol vacante** (vacancy decontrol) en Newark. Este proposal pudo haber sido de mucha importancia para los deuños de edificios y podian hacer que pagaran rentas muy elevados a los nuevos inquilinos sin limites. En otros pueblos esto ha pasado las rentas por las rasca cielos. La ***Coalición*** también ganó la propuesta para dejar fuera del control de rentas las casas de 3 o 4 familias. Esta propuesta pudo haber resultado en grandes aumentos en las rentas para cerca de 1/4 de los inquilinos que viven en los edificios en la Ciudad.

La ***Coalición Para Salvar el Control de Rentas*** planea continuar la lucha para conseguir casas de alquiler mas decentes para los residentes de Newark. Hay personas que hablan ingles y español que pueden ir a su iglesia, escuela, o un grupo de inquilinos para discutir los derechos y la lucha para salvar el control de rentas.

Para mas información llamar a Nancy 344-7210.

Catholic Worker/cpf

Mas De Dos Años Despues

El Senador Frank Lautenberg acusó al gobierno Salvadoreño de estar deliberadamente prolongando el juicio de los asesinos de las cuatro religiosas Norteamericanas, entre ellas una monja de Nueva Jersey en aquel país dos y medio años atras.

Lautenberg dijo que el gobierno Salvadoreño ha estado compremetiendose "por dos y medio años de tardanza y evasivas" de llevar el caso a juicio. Lautenberg dijo, "Estas cuatro ciudadanas Norteamericanas, cristianas devotas, fueron asesinadas por las tropas que nosotros estamos manteniendo con cientos de millones de dólares en ayuda. La certificación de la Administración Reagan para los derechos humanos en El Salvador esta volviendose más que una burla y que se compara con el tiempo que ese gobierno se toma persiguiendo a esos acusados."

"Hay un apoyo paciente entre los Norteamericanos por justicia y respeto a nuestras pólizas del extranjero, particularmente cuando ciudadanos Norteamericanos estan siendo asesinados por soldados extranjeros."

Es interesante notar que Reagan esta dando a ese gobierno de El Salvador millones de dólares, aún cuando ese gobierno es el culpable del asesinato de cuatro mujeres religiosas. Por otro lado Reagan invadió a Grenada cuando que ningun Norteamericano habia sido maltratado o herido.

Una misa en memoria de las monjas asesinadas en El Salvador será celebrada el 8 de Diciembre en la Iglesia First Congregational, 40 S. Fullerton St., Montclair de las 8 a las 10 p.m.

Estudiantes Reciben Una Lección Sobre La Pobresa

Cuándo 16 estudiantes hicieron su equipaje este verano para volar hacia Mejico como parte de un programa auspiciado por la universidad de Seton Hall, esperaban que la vida al Sur del Borde seria llenada de aroma de tortillos y de musica de bandas de mariachis, de acuerdo al Dr. David Abalos, coordinador del programa de verano de la universidad en Mejico.

Cuando aterrizaron en la Ciudad de Mejico descubrieron un pais muy diferente a la imagen familiar pintada a todo color por pancartas turisticas y aerolineas comerciales.

Tom Villani, uno de los 16 estudiantes dijo que, "no podia creer lo que veia. He caminado atravez del Bowery y he visto mendigos y vagamundos alli, asi que no estoy exajerando cuándo les digo que cada 30 pies ví familias completas viviendo en las calles. Todo lo que podia pensar era, '¡Como la gente puede vivir de esta manera?' "

Durante dos semanas antes del viaje, Dr. abalos, profesor associado de estudios religiosos y socialogia, condujo discusiones sobre el punto complexo de la politica, economia y cultura en Mejico, pero no hay nada como lo que uno mismo experimenta," anotó Abalos.

"Los estudiantes se quedaron petrificados por la pobreza que vieron," dijo Abalos, residente de South Orange. "Es una casa hablar de pobreza en el salon de clases y otro muy diferente el verla."

Esa impresión, dijo Abalos, encluyó la ilustración del género de la politica. El movimiento guerrillero en Mejico y otras lugares en Centro America no son causados por la intervención sovietica, sino porque la gente literalmente se esta muriendo de hambre. "Esto fué muy claro para los estudiantes," dijo Abalos.

Si hay alguna causa de esperanza en Mejico, dijo Abalos, la mayor parte depende en la iglesia Catolica. Una vez alineadas con el poderoso y rico, los obispos Latinos Americanos articularon su comisión para con los pobres en la conferencia "CELAM" en Medellin, Columbia. "Lo que los obispos hicieron basicamente," dijo Abalos, "fué enviarles una nota dejandoles saber de qué la iglesia no les ayudaria más a justicar la violencia de pobreza en America Latina."



Residentes de Newark Protestan Invación de Grenada

"Si realmente el Presidente Ronald Reagan estuviese interesado en el bienestar de la gente, no veriamos gente durmiendo en bancos en los parques de noche. No veriamos gente en Newark sin trabajos. No veriamos gente sin cuidados de salud adequador." Estas fueron las palabras de Jerry Kilman de la **Campaña de Trabajos y Paz** *hablando en un demostración auspciado en Newark en Nov. 5 para protestar la invación de Grenada por los E.U. Vic De Luca de Ironbound senalo que el dinero usado para la invación podria ser gastado para trabajos, mejores casas, mejores escuelas, costos de salud mas baratos, y otras necesidades para la gente y el pais. Mas de 50 personas atendieron a la demostración que la habia organizado por la* **Campaña de Trabajos y Paz.**

Revisión de la Pelicula:
'El Amanecer de un Pueblo'

Más de 70 personas vinieron a ver la película ***El Amanecer De Un Pueblo (Dawn of the People)*** el 28 de Octubre pasado en la iglesia de Trinity Reformed.

La pelicula ***Dawn of the People*** es acerca de la campaña de alfabetización para enseñar a leer y a escribir que se llevó a cabo en Nicaragua en 1980, despues de la revolución Sandinista. En este país, nosotros decimos, "No lo firmes antes de que lo leas." Imagine los problemas que usted tendría si usted no pudiera leer un contrato, una carta, un periódico o un anuncio de trabajo.

En Nicaragua durante la dictadura de Somoza, la mayoria de la gente no podia leer, tenian poco para comer y vivia en pobres e insalubres condiciones. Fué por estas terribles condiciones de vida, que el pueblo peleó y con éxito derrotó a Somoza. La iglesia Católica fué uno de los mas grandes pilares de la revolución y el nuevo gobierno tiene varios Sacerdotes en puestos importantes.

El nuevo gobierno decidio que ere importante enseñar a leer a la gente para que ellos pudieran ayudarse a cambiar sus propias condiciones de vida. La campaña de alfabetización duro 6 meses y 70,000 jovenes Nicaraguenses voluntariamente fueron a enseñar a leer y a escribir a sus compatriotas. Ellos exitosamente enseñaron a leer a más de 500,000 personas y el rango de analfabetismo en Nicaragua bajo del 52% al solo 13%. Estos voluntarios fueron a las ciudades y a las áreas rurales enseñando a todos, desde niños hasta ancianos.

En la película uno de los voluntarios hace la siguiente pregunta en la clase: ¿Porqué el regimen de Somoza no le enseño a la gente a leer? Un hombre como de unos 50 años que esta aprendiendo a leer por primera vez dice con exitación: "Porque ellos no querian que nosotros supieramos nada, que fueramos ignorantes toda la vida y de esa forma no participar en nada, solo querian usarnos y darnos nada a cambio y mantenernos en la oscuridad y ahora si podemos ver la luz."

Aprender a leer seria el primer paso para cambiar las condiciones que el gobierno de Somoza había dejado. Cuando la gente puede leer entonces ellos se dan cuenta de lo que esta pasando a sus alrededores y conocer sus derechos legales. Ellos pueden tomar medidas para organizarse y proteger sus intereses. Pueden descubrir los origenes, la verdad y de esta forma no solamente creer en lo que otras personas les digan o les cuenten.

Dawn of the People muestra la razon original para la revolución en Nicaragua y algunos de sus trinfos. Normalmente nosotros oímos sólo del gobierno de U.S.A. decir que la revolución en Nicaragua es 'Comunista'. Los Estados Unidos puso la familia Somoza en el poder y apoyo la dictadura en Nicaragua. El gobierno de los Estados Unidos continua dando dinero a los que apoyaron a somoza y que ahora estan tratando de derrocar al nuevo gobierno Sandinista.

"Me desagrada y enoja ver a nuestro país interfiriendo en Nicaragua cuando que lo único que ellos quieren es una oportunidad de dirigir su país, vivir en paz," dijo Sister Carla Barr de la Arquediócesis de Newark. Sister Carla fué en un grupo de 150 religiosos Americanos que visitaron Nicaragua en Junio de 1983. Ella y otros de los que fueron a Nicaragua hablaron acerca de su viaje e hicieron un comentario sobre la película. "Todo el dinero que Nicaragua necesita para construir nuevas viviendas y conseguir medicinas y construir nuevas escuelas, ahora tiene que ser usado para comprar armas y todo porque nuestro gobierno esta dando armamento a esos que estan tratando de derrocar al gobierno de Nicaragua."

John Bins del grupo Inter-religioso sobre Centro America, urgió a la gente a hacer todo lo que sea posible para detener a los Estados Unidos de invadir Nicaragua. El sugirió que cada uno envie cartas a los miembros del Congreso.

El padre Nickas de la iglesia de San Rocco en Newark quien tambien fue a Nicaragua dijo que vio muchas esperanzas cuando vió el gran número de gente que presenció la pelicula y que estaban interesados en hacer algo para ayudar.

Mary Ann Fenwick de la iglesia del Sagrado Sacramento tambien comentó acerca de la película.

Ironbound Voices is a project of the Ironbound Information Center. We believe that all people are entitled to income, food, clothing, housing, education, and health care. We will print articles about groups taking steps to make this belief a reality. We will also publish information about your legal and social service rights. This issue was published with the help of:

John Barbosa	Mrs. Mendes
Lucy Cadarette	Isabel Pascual
Bob Cartwright	Mr. A. Rendeiro
Arnold Cohen	Edna Rodriguez
Rosa Conceição	Rami Ramos
Pat Danielak	Juarez Santos
Carmen Garcia	Nereida Torres
Madelyn Hoffman	Juan Vela
Armando Janeiro	Marielena Vela
Nellie Janeiro	Fran Wingren
Filomena Marques	Nancy Zak

Subscribe

To The

Ironbound Voices

It's important to have a *Tri-Lingual* Newspaper in Ironbound.
We ask you to subscribe so we can pay the costs of printing and mailing. A subscription guarantees you a mailed copy of *Ironbound Voices.*

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

$3 for 10 issues. . . . **$6 for 20 issues. . . .**

$10 Sustainer. . . . **Donation. . . .**

Season's Greetings

Feliz Navidad

Desejam a Todas Boas Festa



Ironbound Community Corporation
95 Fleming Ave.
Newark, N.J. 07105

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEWARK, N.J.
PERMIT NO. 5366

